

U.S. Department
of Transportation

United States
Coast Guard



Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20)

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17 August 2006

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Please accept my deepest sympathy on the death of your son, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Steven Duque, and allow me to tell you what we know about the circumstances surrounding his death. Steven was engaged in a scuba diving operation in the Arctic at position 77-13N 177-42W when a problem was detected by the support crew tending his safety line. He was pulled to the surface and received immediate treatment by our medical staff. Despite these efforts, he could not be revived. His death is suspected to have been caused by an arterial embolism. At this point, I do not know what transpired below the surface and thus what caused this tragedy. In the coming days, all the details of this incident will be thoroughly investigated so that we may best understand what caused the death of your son. I will keep you informed as this investigation progresses.

I am available to provide you information at any time at sea at 808-434-4897.

Sincerely,


Douglas G. Russell
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer
USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20)

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